

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT PCC Attitude Toward Labor Situation

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1. The Central Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) met on 26 January 1951 to consider the position of the PCC in relation to the Independent Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC) and the Liberal CTC. The meeting was held immediately following the funeral of a Communist labor leader, Manuel Marulanda Velez, who died as a result of treatment he had received from the police after being arrested last December.\*
2. The Central Committee resolved to study methods for gaining control of the leadership of the Independent CTC, bearing in mind that control of the group must not be openly Communist if government recognition is to be obtained.
3. A committee of three was designated to report on the Liberal CTC meeting to be held 3-5 February 1951, which they believed would be openly anti-Communist. Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, urged that every effort be made to learn the principal points of the meeting's agenda in advance so that a leaflet could be prepared for distribution to delegates before the meeting opened. The Communists believed that one point which was certain to be included on the agenda was the matter of making a good showing in the national census of unions to be taken by the Ministry of Labor.
4. On 6 February, after the meeting of the CTC had been held, Vieira White made the following comments about it at a Communist meeting:
  - a. The slight importance of the CTC in the labor picture was demonstrated by the fact that scarcely fifty delegates attended this congress, whereas former CTC congresses were attended by as many as 200 delegates.
  - b. The return of Victor Julio Silva to the presidency of the CTC signifies that the CTC will continue to be directed by Eduardo Santos, Liberal Party leader.
  - c. The conclusions of the conference have little practical value for the workers, and some may be prejudicial because they attack the national government. Vieira White said such an attitude will fortify the UTC, for labor unions will seek to affiliate with the federation which can provide the most benefits: in Colombia that means the federation which enjoys government protection.

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5. Vieira White also commented on the UTC convention which took place at the same time as the CTC convention, saying that the conclusions of the UTC congress would be very well received by most of the labor unions. He further noted that the Conservative press, especially El Siglo, covered the UTC convention very well, whereas the Liberal press took little notice of the CTC congress. Vieira White believed that the workers were bound to note the Liberal press' indifference to the labor movement and take it as an indication that the Liberal Party does not appreciate the political strength of the working class.

6. The Secretary General concluded by saying that the PCC should concentrate on strengthening the Independent CTC and persuade the workers that both the CTC and the UTC defend the interests of the moneyed classes instead of the workers. He said that labor offers a large field for Communist agitation now that the two strongest labor federations have shown by the nature of their congresses that they represent the right rather than the left.

25X1X [REDACTED] Source reported that Gilberto Vieira White and Carlos Aleman, a Communist sympathizer, spoke at Marulanda's funeral. (Aleman has avowedly withdrawn from the PCC, but is believed to have taken this action to avoid losing his position with the National Railways.) The Communists believed that attempted agitation at the funeral was caused by imperialist agents, since the Communists had been ordered to maintain strict decorum.

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